

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

B 1. (Amended) An improved method of forming an even surface on a building, wherein the method is especially suited for reducing the labor requirements of applying a concrete-based mortar to the building, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

mixing a concrete-based mortar with water and a quantity of accelerant sufficient to cause the resulting composition to set in approximately two hours;

applying the concrete-based mortar to a concrete surface to form a mortar surface; and

removing an exterior portion of the mortar surface after approximately two hours so that the mortar surface has hardened sufficient to prevent removal of sub-surface, concrete-based mortar.

2. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar comprises mixing the concrete-based mortar having particles greater than 0.18 millimeters in diameter and a lesser portion of particles greater than 1.2

B¹ millimeters in diameter; and wherein the step of removing the exterior portion of the mortar surface comprises removing the particles greater than 1.2 millimeters in diameter from the exterior portion of the mortar surface without removing the particles greater than 1.2 millimeters in diameter from the sub-surface portion of the mortar surface.

B² 4. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar further comprises mixing the concrete-based mortar with the accelerant having chloride ions.

B³ 7. (Twice Amended) A method of applying a concrete-based mortar to a building comprising the steps of:

mixing a concrete-based mortar, an accelerant and water to form a resulting composition that sets within three hours;

applying the resulting composition to an exterior of a building;

allowing the resulting composition to set on the building for a period of at least two hours, wherein the resulting composition sufficiently hardens to prevent reformation and to prevent scoring lines; and

³ removing an exterior portion of the resulting composition, wherein the time from applying the resulting composition to removing the exterior portion of the resulting composition does not exceed three hours.

21. (Amended) A method of applying a concrete-based mortar to a building comprising the steps of:

⁴ mixing a concrete-based mortar, an accelerant and water to form a resulting composition that hardens in approximately three hours time or less;

applying the resulting composition to an exterior of a building;

allowing the resulting composition to harden on the building for a time sufficient to prevent reformation of the composition; and

removing an exterior skin of the resulting composition after the step of allowing the resulting composition to set.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of mixing a concrete-based mortar comprises mixing the concrete-

based mortar having particles approximately 1 millimeter or greater in diameter.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the step of removing an exterior skin comprises scraping a rough trowel against the resulting composition to remove at least a portion of the particles approximately 1 millimeter or greater in diameter from the exterior skin but ---without removing subcutaneous mortar or particles.

Please add the following new claims:

24. The method of 7, wherein in the step of allowing the resulting composition to set, the resulting composition sufficiently hardens to prevent the formation of impressions and to prevent the formation of patterns.

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 21-23 are pending. Claims 14-16 have been restricted from prosecution in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 21, 22 and 23 have been amended. Claim 24 has been added. The specification has been amended pursuant to the Examiner's requirement. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are supported by the application as originally filed including